



Dear Parent/Guardian,

You recently received your child's results on the Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) from the spring of 2018. The MEA Mathematics and ELA/Literacy was eMPowerME at grades 3-8 and SAT in the third year of high school. The MEA Science assessment was administered at grades 5 and 8, and in the third year of high school.

Information about each of these assessments can be found here:

https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS

- Sample eMPowerME items: <https://maine.onlinehelp.measuredprogress.org/sample-items/>
- Released 2018 eMPowerME items: <https://maine.onlinehelp.measuredprogress.org/released-items/>
- The full SAT released assessment: https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/supports
- Released MEA Science items: https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/supports

Student performance on the MEA is reported in four achievement levels:

- Level 4: Above State Expectations
- Level 3: At State Expectations
- Level 2: Below State Expectations
- Level 1: Well Below State Expectations

Maine's public school students in grades 3-8 and in the third year of high school are required by both state and federal law to be assessed each year in mathematics and English language arts (ELA)/literacy. They are further required to be assessed in science at grades 5 and 8, and in the third year of high school. Overall results by school, by district and for the whole state can be found at <https://lms.backpack.education/public/maine>.

While no single test can give a complete picture of a child's achievement, the MEA combined with other information (e.g. school grades and daily schoolwork), can help us all better understand the progress of our students. These assessments can help schools review and improve curriculum. The results can highlight areas where a particular student needs additional support, where he or she has mastered the content, and where the student might be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter. Teachers can use the information to guide their instruction and provide more individualized learning opportunities for students. Parents can use the information to help support their child at home and guide discussions with their child's teacher.

We are confident that the quality instruction delivered by our committed educators, along with your support, can help our students meet and exceed the expectations Maine has established for their learning. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions you have about the MEA or your child's progress.